

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of July 10, 2008 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-5 and 7 have been amended. Claims 6 and 8-10 have been canceled. Claims 11-20 have been added. Claims 1-5, 7, 11-20 remain pending in this application.

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Redman again for the courtesy of the interview conducted December 3, 2008.

Specification

The specification has been amended to include headings for the major sections of the application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended the claims to present the claims in a more preferred form, and respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,931,789 to Stout ("Stout"). Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed during the Examiner interview, the present application has a priority date of July 30, 2002. Stout's filing date, and priority date is September 19, 2003. Accordingly, Stout is not a proper prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, among other inventive features, a "second strip includ[ing] a fastening member configured to attach the cover to a second cover." Applicants

submit that the additional references included in the record, U.S. Publication No. 2004/0098916 to Albenda (hereinafter “Albenda”) and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0046501 to Webb (hereinafter “Webb”) do not teach or suggest the features of independent claim 1.

Webb does not teach or suggest a cover including a fastening member *configured to attach the cover to a second cover*, as recited in claim 1. Albenda does not teach or suggest a cover including a fastening member *configured to attach the cover to a second cover*, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is patentably distinct over Webb and Albenda alone or in combination.

Independent 17 includes similar features as claim 1, and is patentably distinct over both Webb and Albenda for at least similar reasons as those discussed with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2-5, 7, and 11-12 depend from claim 1 and are patentably distinct over Webb and Albenda for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1. Claims 18-20 depend directly or indirectly from claim 17 and are therefore patentably distinct over Webb and Albenda for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 17.

Independent claim 13 includes a first cover and a second cover, “wherein the first strip of the second cover engages with the fastening member of the first cover to form a wide cover.” Neither Webb nor Albenda teach or suggest a first cover engaged with a second cover to form a wide cover, as recited in claim 13. Accordingly, claim 13 is patentably distinct over both Webb and Albenda for at least this reason.

Claims 14-16 depend directly or indirectly from claim 13 and are therefore patentably distinct over Webb and Albenda for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 13.

Conclusion

If any further fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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